

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
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INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA

UNCLAS KUWAIT 4085

STATE FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/RA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CFED, ELAB
SUBJECT: KUWAITI LABOR AND SOCIAL SECURITY LAWS

REF: (A) STATE 161362, (B) KUWAIT 3457 (NOTAL, (C) STATE
166470

1. RE REF A, WE KNOW OF NO PENDING SOCIAL SECURITY
OR LABOR LEGISLATION REGARDING AKUWAITIS OR KUWAITIS
AND DOUBT THAT ANY IS LIKELY ON (REF C) FOLLOWS.

2. SOCIAL SECURITY. INFO ON SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION
CONTAINED IN REF B. AS NOTED IN THIS JUNE, 1977,
CABLE SOCIAL SECURITY LAW APPLIES ONLY TO KUWAITI
CITIZENS, MAKING IT OF LITTLE RELEVANCE FOR U.S. FIRMS,
AS WORK FORCE IN KUWAIT CONSISTS. OFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF SOCIAL
SECURITY LAW BEING POUCHED TO NEA/RA FOR LABOR ADVISORONLP
EITCPBOR LAW. BASIC KUWAIT LABOR LAWS ARE NUMBER 38/1964
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AND 43/1968. NEW LABOR LAWS, PROMISED IN '73 AIRGRAM
NEVER APPEARED. IN ANY EVENT, LAW REPORTED IN AIRGRAM
WOULD HAVE APPLIED ONLY TO CIVIL SERVANTS, MAKING IT OF
NO RELEVANCE TO QUERIES RECEIVED BY DEPT. ONE PHOTO
COPY OF ARABIC PAMPHLET CONTAINING ALL KUWAITI LABOR
LAWS, PLUS TWO PHOTO COPIES OF BOOK CONTAINING ENGLISH
TRANSLATIONS OF 1964 AND 1968 BASIC LABOR LAWS AND

ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS OF 1974 DECREES CONCERNING PROTECTION
OF WORKMEN AGAINST INJURIES AND OCCUPATIONAL
DISEASES BEING POUCHED TO NEA/RA. BOOK ITSELF IS OUT
OF PRINT.

4. WORK PERMIT REGULATIONS. BASIC OUTLINE OF THESE
REGULATIONS CONTAINED IN ARTICLES 3 AND 7 OF 1964 LABOR
LAW. ALMOST ALL EXPATRIATES WORKING IN KUWAIT OBTAIN
WORK PERMITS THROUGH THEIR EMPLOYERS, HENCE EMBASSY
RARELY, IF EVER, RECEIVES QUERIES ABOUT WORK PERMITS. IN
RARE CASES WHERE PERSON DOES NOT HAVE EMPLOYER (USUALLY
FOR UNSKILLED WORKERS), "CARD OF WORK" CAN BE OBTAINED AT
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND LABOR UPON PRESENTATION
OF VALID PASSPORT, VALID VISA, PROOF OF LEGAL ENTRY INTO
COUNTRY, AND POLICE CERTIFICATE.

5. COMMENT: SINCE MOST EXPATRIATES IN KUWAIT EITHER WORK
FOR LOCAL FIRM OR FOR FOREIGN FIRM WITH KUWAITI PARTNER,
THE KUWAIT SIDE HANDLES MATTERS RELATING TO LABOR AND
WORK PERMIT REGULATIONS. HOPEFULLY THE VARIOUS MATERIAL
WE WILL POUCH WILL BE OF USE, BUT IT STRIKES US THAT
SIMPLEST AND MOST USEFUL RESPONSE TO QUERIES ON LABOR
AND SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION IS THAT THESE MATTERS
ARE HANDLED BY KUWAIT PARTNER OR EMPLOYER AND SHOULD
NOT CAUSE ANY TROUBLE.

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